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## Viewing cable 09STATE129193, U) DEPUTY SECRETARY STEINBERG'S DECEMBER 14,

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### Understanding cables

Every cable message consists of three parts:

- The top box shows each cables unique reference number, when and by whom it originally was sent, and what its initial classification was.
- The middle box contains the header information that is associated with the cable. It includes information about the receiver(s) as well as a general subject.
- The bottom box presents the body of the cable. The opening can contain a more specific subject, references to other cables ([browse by origin](#) to find them) or additional comment. This is followed by the main contents of the cable: a summary, a collection of specific topics and a comment section.

To understand the justification used for the classification of each cable, please use this [WikiSource](#) article as reference.

### Discussing cables

If you find meaningful or important information in a cable, please link directly to its unique reference number. Linking to a specific paragraph in the body of a cable is also possible by copying the appropriate link (to be found at the paragraph symbol). Please mark messages for social networking services like Twitter with the hash tags **#cablegate** and a hash containing the reference ID e.g. **#09STATE129193**.

Reference ID	Created	Released	Classification	Origin
<a href="#">09STATE129193</a>	2009-12-17 22:31	2011-08-30 01:44	<a href="#">CONFIDENTIAL//NOFORN</a>	<a href="#">Secretary of State</a>

Appears in these articles:

<http://wlcentral.org/node/1826>

VZCZCXRO9588  
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P 172231Z DEC 09  
FM SECSTATE WASHDC  
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INFO RUEHBW/AMEMBASSY BELGRADE PRIORITY 1024  
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C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 01 OF 02 STATE 129193

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E.O. 12958: DECL: 12/17/2019  
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YI, SP  
SUBJECT: (U) DEPUTY SECRETARY STEINBERG'S DECEMBER 14,  
2009 MEETING WITH SPANISH FOREIGN MINISTER MORATINOS

¶1. Classified by EUR Assistant Secretary Philip H. Gordon.  
For Reasons: 1.4 (b) and (d)

¶2. (U) December 14, 2009; 11:00am; Washington, DC.

¶3. (U) Participants:

U.S.

Deputy Secretary Steinberg  
EUR DAS Stuart Jones  
D Staff Alexandra McKnight  
Stacie Zerdecki (EUR Notetaker)

Spain

Foreign Minister Miguel Angel Moratinos  
Director General for EU Affairs Miguel Angel Navarro  
Director General for North America and non-EU Europe  
Fernandez de la Pena  
Ambassador Jorge Dezcallar  
Deputy Press Director Aranzazu Banon

¶4. (C) SUMMARY. FM Moratinos requested the meeting with Deputy Secretary Steinberg to discuss the situation in the Western Balkans. He confirmed Spain's support of the Butmir process and asked for a U.S. blessing on an early-February proposed gathering in Madrid of Bosnian and regional leaders.

Moratinos also commented on Spain's role as EU President in the first half of 2010 during a transition to a new framework for the EU under the Lisbon Treaty. He noted that he expected to work well with High Representative Ashton and that Spain would take a non-obstructionist stance on Kosovo during its Presidency. The Deputy Secretary stressed the importance of the Bosnian parties negotiating in Sarajevo and U.S. commitment to Serbian integration into Euro-Atlantic structures. END SUMMARY.

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Bosnia  
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¶5. (C) FM Moratinos opened the meeting with an overview of his perspective of the Western Balkans. With regards to Bosnia and Herzegovina, he indicated that Spain wants to follow up on the Butmir process and promised to coordinate closely with the United States. He also noted his plans to convene a meeting among Bosnian and regional leaders in Madrid in early February to bring them to an agreement on needed reforms. On Bosnia and broader foreign policy issues, Moratinos noted he had had a &very positive8 meeting on 12/3 with EU High Representative Ashton and believes the two will work productively together during Spain's 2010 EU Presidency. He commented that Ashton is &clever enough to trust me and my team.8

¶6. (C) Moratinos asked for U.S. blessing of his plan for a one-week retreat for Bosnian leaders in Madrid in early February. The Deputy Secretary suggested it would be more productive for Bosnian leaders to negotiate a resolution in Sarajevo. Bringing politicians far from their electorate could cause them to be overly cautious. The Deputy Secretary also cautioned that the parties were still pretty far apart in their positions on the Butmir texts and pushing them together prematurely risked highlighting their differences. He urged Moratinos to ensure that the parties could indeed reach agreement before he convened the meeting. A large high profile meeting outside the region which failed risks undermining reform in general. If the parties cannot agree on the current texts early in 2010 it would be better to leave a solid package on the table with which they can restart after the October elections. The Deputy Secretary explained that there are three leaders who have not accepted the current texts: Haris Silajdzic, Milorad Dodik and Zlatko Lagumdzija. It is unlikely that Silajdzic would agree to any text; Dodik has made noises about wanting to reach agreement but has not engaged on specifics. Lagumdzija has fully rejected the package. The Deputy Secretary urged Moratinos to try to persuade Lagumdzija to adopt a more

constructive posture towards the process ) the sooner the better. Moratinos agreed to follow up with Lagumdzija immediately. He asked the Deputy Secretary to send his Bosnia experts to Madrid early in the New Year being our collaboration.

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Macedonia  
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¶7. (C) During a recent meeting between FM Moratinos and Greek Prime Minister George Papandreou, Papandreou indicated that he was ready to move forward on the name issue with Macedonia. The Deputy Secretary noted that he had heard similar reports and that PM Papandreou needs to act quickly. He also suggested that Greek PM Papandreou and Macedonian PM Gruevski should deal with one another directly; an interlocutor would not be useful. He hoped that each side would gain confidence in the situation as small steps are made. The Deputy Secretary underscored that the EU will need to stand firm behind whatever decision is made on the name issue.

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Kosovo  
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¶8. (C) The Deputy Secretary made clear that there is no going back on Kosovar independence. Moratinos assured the Deputy Secretary that Spain would not take an obstructionist position on Kosovo during its EU Presidency in 2010. Moratinos is cognizant that the majority of EU member states have recognized independence, and promised that Spain will represent the Union as a whole. Moratinos underscored that he wants Kosovo to be a pro-Western ally.

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Croatia  
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¶9. (C) Moratinos stated that during Spain's EU Presidency, he expects an institutional push for negotiations with Croatia to join the European Union and a final offer of membership. He also recommends that Croatia be held up as a success story for other Western Balkan countries to use as a model for progress, perhaps at a high-level meeting of Balkan leaders in May to commemorate the tenth anniversary of the Zagreb conference (which confirmed the EU's commitment to the integration of the Western Balkans into the EU.)

CLINTON